

# Used Oil Recycling Rate

## Annual Report: 2007

### Introduction

This annual report presents 14 years of oil sales and recycling data, from 1994 through 2007. The information presented in Table 1 is based on quarterly reports of oil sales from manufacturers and used oil received by recycling facilities.

Oil is categorized as lubricating oil and industrial oil. Lubricating oil includes, but is not limited to, any oil intended for use in an internal combustion engine crankcase, transmission, gearbox, or differential in an automobile, bus, truck, vessel, plane, train, heavy equipment, or other machinery

powered by an internal combustion engine (Public Resources Code [PRC] section 48618). Industrial oil includes, but is not limited to, any compressor, turbine, or bearing oil, hydraulic oil, metalworking oil, or refrigeration oil. Industrial oil does not include dielectric fluids (PRC section 48616).

The volume of used lubricating oil (ULO) recycled as shown in Table 1 is a measure of the total volume of ULO received by used oil recycling facilities. Oil sales are based on oil reported by oil manufacturers or the entity that is first to take title to lubricating oil for sale, use, or transfer.

**Table 1. Annual Oil Sales and Used Oil Recycling Volumes (In Millions of Gallons)**

	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
<b>Lubricating Oil Sales</b>	141.2	140.8	136.2	137.8	142.1	150.0	154.3	163.6	168.0	150.2	150.5	153.7	152.8	150.0
<b>Industrial Oil Sales</b>	78.0	117.3	140.9	141.7	152.4	176.4	155.7	149.1	147.1	135.8	144.6	123.1	116.4	95.1*
<b>Total Oil Sales**</b>	219.2	258.1	277.1	279.5	294.5	326.4	310.0	312.7	315.1	286.0	295.0	276.8	269.2	245.1
<b>Lubricating Oil Recycled***</b>	59.9	54.6	56.8	60.9	73.6	76.9	80.0	81.9	83.1	83.7	87.0	87.9	88.1	88.3
<b>Industrial Oil Recycled***</b>	16.7	19.5	20.8	19.3	11.6	10.4	7.9	15.5	17.5	32.4	32.5	29.7	27.2	30.4
<b>Total Oil Recycled</b>	76.6	74.1	77.6	80.2	85.2	87.3	87.9	97.4	100.6	116.1	119.4	117.6	115.3	118.7

\*Industrial oil sales have been trending down in recent years; however, the larger decline witnessed in 2007 may be due to reporting inaccuracies; the volumes may be revised as staff learns of errors through audits and discussions with reporting entities.

\*\* The volumes for oil sales are subject to change as fees on oil sales and refunds for exempt lubricating oils may be reported up to one year after the initial sale.

\*\*\* Figures include used oil collected in California and used oil sent outside of California.

## Recycling Trends

The ULO recycling rate is based on the amount of lubrication oil recycled as a percentage of lubrication oil sales.

Figure 1 shows ULO recycling rates from 1994 through 2007.

**Lubrication oil sales.** Figure 1 shows 2007 lubricating oil sales totaled 150.0 million gallons, a 1.8 percent decrease from the 152.8 million gallons sold in 2006. This is largely attributed to high crude oil prices. This decrease in sales may continue into 2008 oil sales.

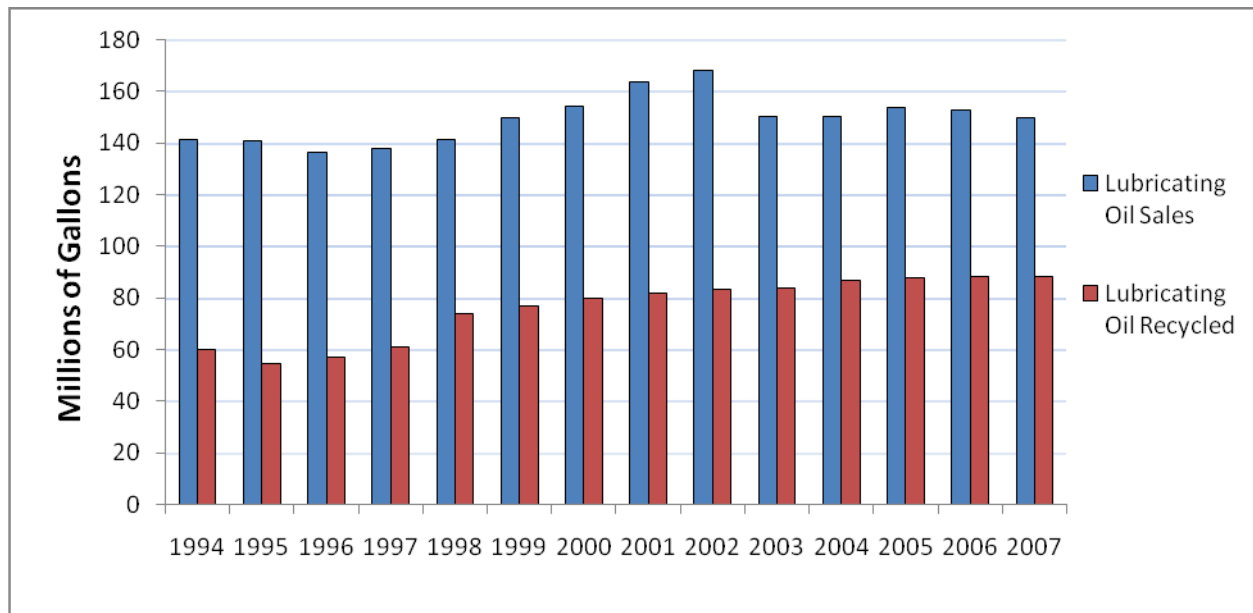
**ULO recycling rate.** Figure 1 shows that 88.3 million gallons of ULO were recycled during 2007, which was 0.2 percent above the 88.1 million gallons recycled in 2006. The ULO recycling rate for 2007 was 58.8 percent, which is an increase from the 57.6 percent recycling rate in 2006.

This can be attributed to the slight increase in volume of oil collected while the volume of oil sold decreased slightly. Volumes of oil collected have been gradually leveling off in the past years, and the volume collected in 2008 should increase slightly or remain the same.

**Adjustments.** The volumes for oil sales and ULO collections are revised as staff learns of inaccuracies from audits, discussions with reporting entities, and refunds for exemptions. For example, sales reports may be revised as additional sales are reported or refunds for exempt lubricating oils are completed.

No adjustments are made to the recycling rate to account for oil that is lost due to combustion, spills, leaks, and drips during use. It is estimated that between 20 to 40 percent of oil is lost or consumed during usage<sup>i</sup>.

**Figure 1. Amount of Lubricating Oil Recycled as a Percentage of Sales, 1994–2007 (Calendar Years)**



<sup>i</sup> San Francisco State University, "To the Greatest Extent Possible:" Do-It-Yourselfers and the Recovery of Used Oil and Filters, Publication #611-05-008, California Integrated Waste Management Board, Sacramento, October 2005